

Report by the Government Statist for the information of the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

(The figures in parentheses^{es} are those for the previous year. 1634

A GENERAL VIEW of the records of the Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15, to 1920-21, the Drink Bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1924-25, the value consumed has varied only slightly.

VALUES.-- For the year ended June 30th 1925, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £2,698,670 equal to £5.0.3 per inhabitant, compared with £2,582,974 or £4.18.5 per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,289,119 or £2/17/7 per inhabitant in 1914-15.

QUANTITIES - The previous 4 years had indicated a continuous increase in the quantity of Spirits consumed per inhabitant which had been counterbalanced by a continuous decrease in the quantity of beer consumed, and this appears to also have been the experience of the Commonwealth as a whole. This however, was reversed for 1924-25, the quantities consumed per inhabitant being Beer 10.30 (9.88) gallons, Spirits .38 (.39) proof gallons, compared with the year 1914-15 - Beer 12.10 gallons, Spirits .48 proof gallons. The consumption of wine has been estimated each year at .75 gallons per inhabitant.

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS - During the last year (1924) there were 4,961 (4,496) convictions for drunkenness averaging 9.37 (8.73) convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. This is considerably higher than the previous year and has only been exceeded in the years immediately proceeding the war. The year 1914 recorded 5,243 convictions averaging 11.77 per 1,000 inhabitants. These convictions include several against the same person. Distinct persons convicted were 3,973 (3,808), average 7.50 (7.36) compared with 1914- 4,073, average 9.14. It is noted that while there were 465 more convictions than in the previous year, there were only 165 more distinct persons.

NET REVENUE from Customs and Excise Duties in the State for Alcoholic Beverages in 1924-25 is given as £1,067, 509 (£986, 350).

Summarised, the following are the principal details.--

Year	Drink Bill		galls. consumed per inhabitant.		Year	Drunkenness	
	Total	Per Inhabitant	Beer	Spirits		Convictions	Per 1,000 Inhab.
	£	£ s. d	Galls.	Pf. Galls			
14-15	1,289,119	2.17.7	12.10	.48	1914	5243	11.77
20-21	2,453,088	4.19.11	12.29	.30	1920	3,448	7.08
21-22	2,481,039	3.18.9	10.97	.31	1921	3,443	6.92
22-23	2,541,279	4.19.0	10.59	.34	1922	3,764	7.44
23-24	2,582,974	4.18.5	9.88	.39	1923	4,496	8.73
24-25	2,698,670	5.0.3	10.30	.38	1924	4,961	9.37

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